

Applicant: ESAB AB  
Serial Number: 09/402185  
Attorney Docket: 5746  
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**REMARKS**

Claims 3,9, and 13-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-2, 4-8, and 10-12 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant notes with thanks and appreciation that claims 3-7 and 9-21 were found to have allowable subject matter.

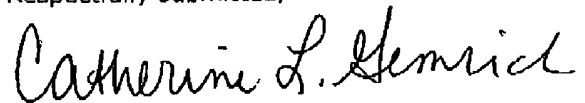
**CONCLUSION**

Having obviated the Examiner's objections, Applicant hereby seeks an early indication of allowance.

**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

The Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for reply to the Office Action dated March 15, 2004 for three-months from June 14, 2004 to Tuesday, August 17, 2004. Please debit the cost of extension from Deposit Account number 4-2219, referencing our docket number 5746.

Respectfully submitted,



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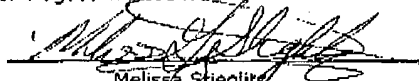
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to the US Patent Office at (703) 872-9306  
Attention Examiner Kevin L. McHenry on August 17, 2004.

  
Melissa Stieglitz